



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Certifies Folsom State Prison Environmental Cleanup

SACRAMENTO - - The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced certification of the hazardous substances cleanup of contaminated soils at several sites at the Folsom State Prison and approved a long term Operations and Maintenance Agreement (OMA) for continued monitoring of groundwater wells.

Certification means that all environmental cleanup activities are complete and a deed restriction has been recorded. As a result of the cleanup, approximately 5.5 acres of land have been remediated for future land use.

DTSC Director Timothy Swickard commented:

"We are pleased to announce this certification. It follows the directives of Governor Schwarzenegger by demonstrating that two state agencies can work together to accomplish beneficial environmental stewardship. The complete work provides protection of public health and the environment and will enable the Department of Corrections to return these areas to productive use."

The deed restriction restricts the land use in the following areas; Former Scrap Metal Area, Former Drum Storage Area, Backstop Area of the Former Camp 12 Firing Range, and the Industrial Manufacturing Processing Area, to adult residential exposure standards and prohibits groundwater usage or tampering with existing groundwater monitoring wells in the Industrial Manufacturing Processing Area.

The Folsom State Prison, located at 300 Prison Road in Represa was opened in 1880 and while serving as a correctional facility has conducted a variety of industrial operations. The Prison consists of 1,200 acres and is bounded by the American River to the west and East Natoma Street to the east.

During the hazardous waste cleanup, approximately 17,000 cubic yards of debris and soil were removed from six areas of the Prison property including the Larkin Hall firing range, the former scrap metal area, the former drum storage area, the former Camp 12 firing range, the old dry cleaning facility and the Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Area.

The debris removed from the site was transported to a recycling facility and the contaminated soil was transported to a hazardous waste disposal facility. Confirmation samples were collected and analyzed to ensure that all contaminated soil was removed.

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In the Industrial Manufacturing and Processing Area, contaminated groundwater remains in the underlying bedrock water bearing zone that is 20 to 50 feet below ground surface. Contaminants found in the zone include benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene and total zylenes at levels greater than California Drinking Water Standards. Since the groundwater contamination levels are elevated, but localized, the DTSC concluded that additional restrictions should be placed on groundwater usage at the parcel. Ongoing operation and maintenance activities will be conducted in this area including groundwater monitoring and five (5) year reviews.

The hazardous substances cleanup was conducted under an Agreement between DTSC and the Department of Corrections. The funding for the project came from the State of California. Under the terms of the agreement, DTSC oversaw environmental investigation and cleanup through its state contractors and in-house staff and the Department of Corrections will continue to implement the Operations and Maintenance plan at the facility.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups and developing and promoting pollution prevention.